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102

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Memorandum



THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM

Information as of 1600
10 June 1966

PREPARED FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
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State Dept. review completed

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10 June 1966

HIGHLIGHTS

Heavy fighting continues for the fourth day between Communist forces and allied troops participating in Operation HAWTHORNE in western Kontum Province. There has been little change in the number or type of Chinese Communist forces in North Vietnam during the past three months.

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I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:

Heavy fighting continues between Communist forces and allied troops participating in Operation HAWTHORNE in western Kontum Province (Para. 1). Operation MAKIKI ended in northern Hau Nghia Province as allied forces captured large amounts of equipment and supplies (Para. 2). Joint US/ARVN Operation FLORIDA/DOAN KET I began today 15 miles northwest of Hue (Para. 3). Operation APACHE, a search-and-destroy operation northwest of Chu Lai, also began today (Para. 4). US soldiers participating in Operation PAUL REVERE in western Pleiku Province have captured a large quantity of Communist weapons and ammunition, including the first sizable amount of Soviet small-arms ammunition to be recovered (Para. 5).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:

The government is pressing efforts to restore law and order in Hue (Paras. 1-2). Tri Quang has reportedly been taken to a hospital in a weakened condition from his hunger strike (Paras. 3-4). Premier Ky has been granted power for three months to deal with South Vietnam's economic situation (Para. 5). Premier Ky is apparently planning to attend the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference in Seoul in mid-June, according to press reports (Paras. 6-7).

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V. Communist Political Developments:

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Several
North Vietnamese diplomatic personnel in free world
countries are reassigned (Paras. 4-5). Peking
attacks proposals put forth at the Soviet-sponsored
World Peace Council (Para. 6).

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ANNEX:

South Vietnam Battle Statistics 28 May - 4 June 1966

Viet Cong Incidents
Viet Cong Attacks
Weapons Losses--GVN/VC

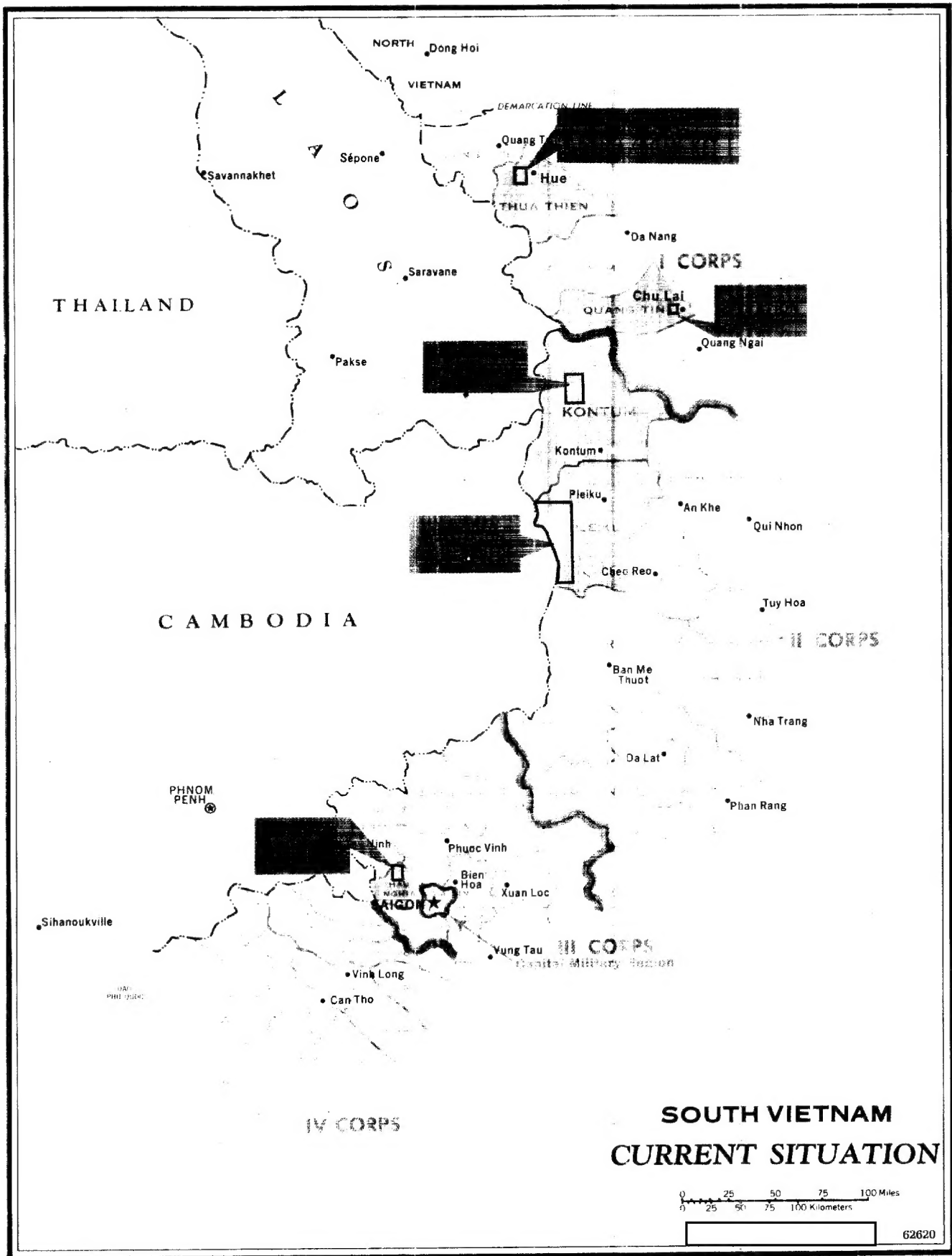
South Vietnam Battle Statistics 28 May - 4 June 1966

Total Personnel Losses
Cumulative US Combat Casualties
Total Friendly Forces Personnel Losses

10 June 1966

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Heavy fighting, now in its fourth day, continues between Communist troops and US and South Vietnamese forces participating in Operation HAWTHORNE in western Kontum Province, 280 miles north of Saigon. Allied reinforcements have been flown into the battle area and have been supported by tactical air and artillery strikes. Enemy losses are expected to be heavy. Unofficial reports indicate that 240 enemy troops have been killed thus far. The latest report of friendly casualties indicates 27 Americans have been killed and 140 wounded with eight ARVN troops killed and 22 wounded.

2. Operation MAKIKI, a joint US/South Vietnamese search-and-destroy operation conducted in northern Hau Nghia Province, ended on 8 June. Large amounts of enemy equipment and supplies were captured, including 110 individual weapons, 30 cases of TNT, approximately 60,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition, and small quantities of grenades, rockets, and recoilless rifle shells. Friendly forces also destroyed 39 tunnels, 25 buildings, 22 bunkers, and a large quantity of grenades, mines, and booby traps. Thirty-four tactical air strikes were flown in support of the week-long operation. Final casualty figures included three Americans killed and 85 wounded, with 21 Viet Cong killed and 32 captured.

3. A combined US/South Vietnamese search-and-destroy operation began on 9 June 15 miles northwest of Hue in Thua Thien Province. Operation FLORIDA/DOAN KET I is composed of five ARVN battalions and two battalions of US Marines. A series of fortified positions, trench lines, sniper holes, cooking utensils, and bunks were discovered and destroyed. ARVN units made light contact with a small enemy force today, resulting in five Viet Cong killed and one captured.

4. One battalion of US Marines began Operation APACHE today. This search-and-destroy operation is being conducted northwest of Chu Lai in Quang Tin Province.

10 June 1966

I-1

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Soviet Ammunition Captured in Pleiku Province

5. Elements of the US 25th Infantry Division participating in Operation PAUL REVERE have captured a large quantity of Communist weapons and ammunition, including the first sizable amount of Soviet small-arms ammunition to be recovered. Individual Soviet cartridges and machine-gun belts containing Soviet cartridges have previously been captured, but no Soviet small-arms ammunition, in cases, had been captured. Also found were 81 Soviet and Chinese rifles and carbines which were in poor condition due to storage in extreme dampness. The arms cache was found earlier this week in a swampy area in western Pleiku Province near the Cambodian border.

10 June 1966

I-2

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

Hue

1. The government flew about 350 combat police into Hue on 10 June via Vietnamese aircraft to assist Colonel Khoa, the province chief, in restoring law and order. No incidents between the riot police, the "struggle" forces, or 1st Division troops have been reported.

2. Radio Hue was reinstituted by progovernment officials on 9 June and broadcast messages on the 10th from General Lam to clear the Buddhist altars off the roads. Civil servants were ordered back to work, and the population was warned not to interfere with security forces that would be confiscating all illegal weapons. The clandestine "Voice of Buddhist Salvation" radio on 10 June called on followers to move altars to the side of the road so traffic could pass. They were advised, however, to gather around the altars in a nonviolent manner if government troops attempted to move them.

3. Tri Quang, according to press reports, was taken to a nearby hospital in a weakened condition to continue his fast against President Johnson's support of the Ky-Thieu regime.

4. General Thi, in a conversation with a US consular officer on 10 June, displayed his irritation with Tri Quang and the "struggle" movement. Thi reported that the movement has been infiltrated by Communists, whom he named. Thi appraised General Nhuan's role as weak and indecisive, despite Nhuan's latest announcement over the government radio that persons would be "tried" in a military court if they interfered with police efforts to confiscate illegal weapons.

Ky Granted Power to Deal With Economic Situation

5. Chief of State Thieu officially transferred the right to deal with Vietnam's economic and financial policies from the new 20-man Directorate to

10 June 1966

II-1

25X1

25X1

Premier Ky. Ky is now empowered to promulgate decrees to combat inflation for the next three months, according to a communiqué announced by the official Vietnam press agency.

Ky Apparently to Attend Foreign Ministers Conference In Korea

6. Premier Ky announced that he will address the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference in Seoul, scheduled to open on 14 June, according to a press report. The move is seen as an attempt to demonstrate to the country that the government considers its position still viable after weeks of antigovernment opposition.

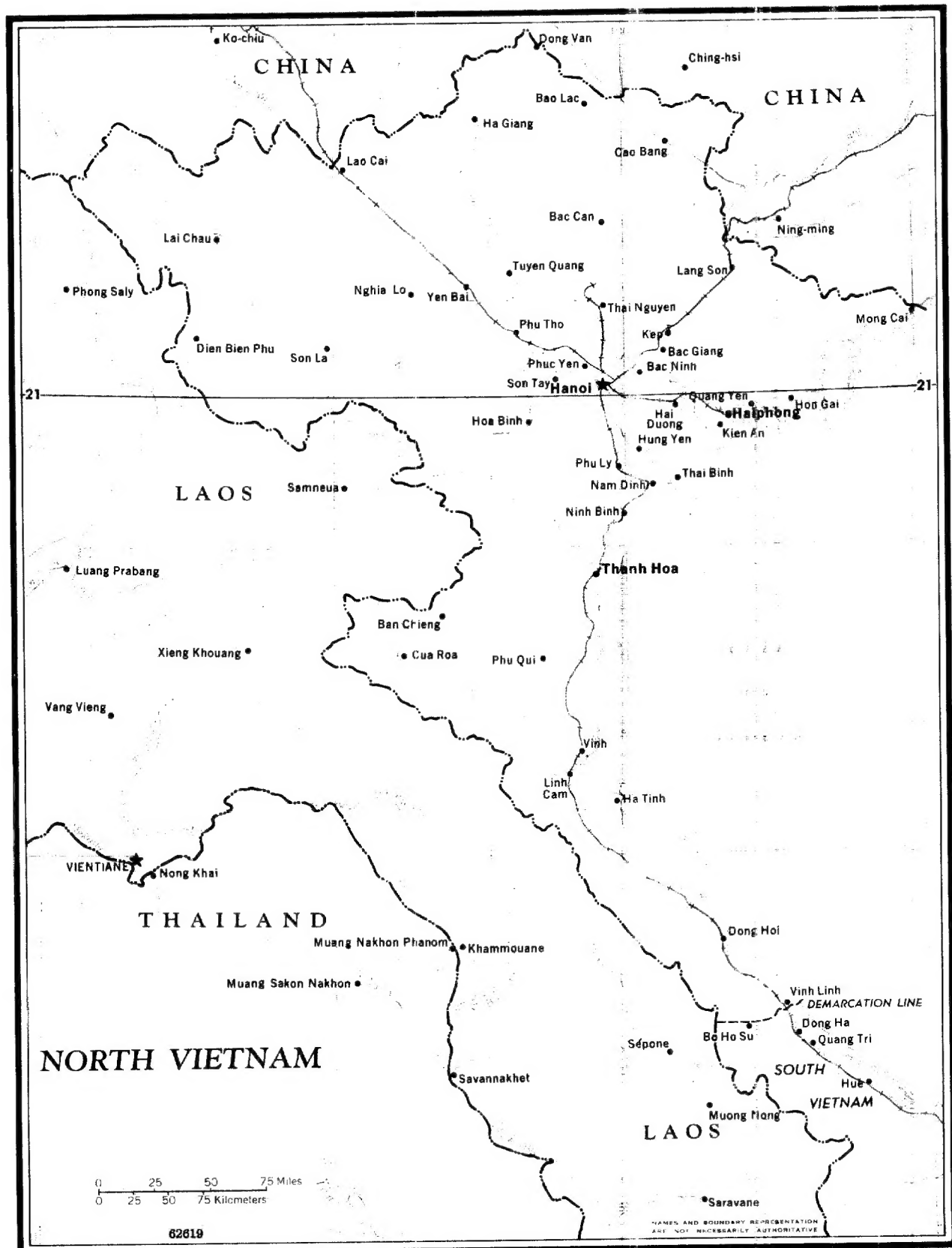
7. The tension and controversy that Ky's attendance at Seoul will generate among the delegations is likely to destroy the conference's prospects for bringing the nonbloc countries of the area closer together and establishing a pattern for useful regional consultation and cooperation.

10 June 1966

II-2

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V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS



Changes in DRV Diplomats in the Free World

4. The press in Algiers has now reported that the North Vietnamese ambassador--as well as the Liberation Front representative--is returning home for another assignment. Like his Front counterpart, DRV ambassador Tran Van So has been stationed in

10 June 1966

V-1



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Algiers since 1963 and is giving the impression that his return to Hanoi is part of a routine reassignment. Tran Van So was in Hanoi for two months in February and March for the conference of DRV diplomats, but had reportedly returned to his duties in Algiers by early April. This is the most recent Hanoi-initiated personnel change among top DRV representatives abroad since the diplomatic conclave in Hanoi early in the year. Others have occurred in Iraq--where Hanoi reportedly ordered its trade mission in Baghdad closed by the end of June, shortly after the head of that mission returned to his post from Hanoi--and in Burma. The number of such changes in recent months suggests a routine replacement of diplomats.

5. One other recent change in DRV/free world relations--the closing of the DRV Embassy in Ghana --was apparently not on Hanoi's initiative, but was requested by the Ghanaians.

Peking Attacks Soviet-Sponsored Peace Proposals

6. Peking's propaganda attack on the Soviet-sponsored World Peace Council proposals for a negotiated settlement in Vietnam appears designed not only to blast the Soviet "revisionist" views on Vietnam but also to lecture Hanoi against accepting any plan for a compromise settlement. NCNA on 9 June broadcast an interview with a Chinese delegate to the World Peace Council meeting on 14 and 15 May in Berlin. It quoted him as declaring that the Council's Vietnam proposals were designed by Moscow "with a view to peddling Lyndon Johnson's schemes for peace talks." The Council's five-point program generally resembled Hanoi's own plan for a Vietnam settlement, but the Chinese delegate ignored the similarity and instead insisted that by omitting any reference to "the immediate and total US withdrawal from South Vietnam," it left out the "key" to a Vietnam settlement.

10 June 1966

V-2

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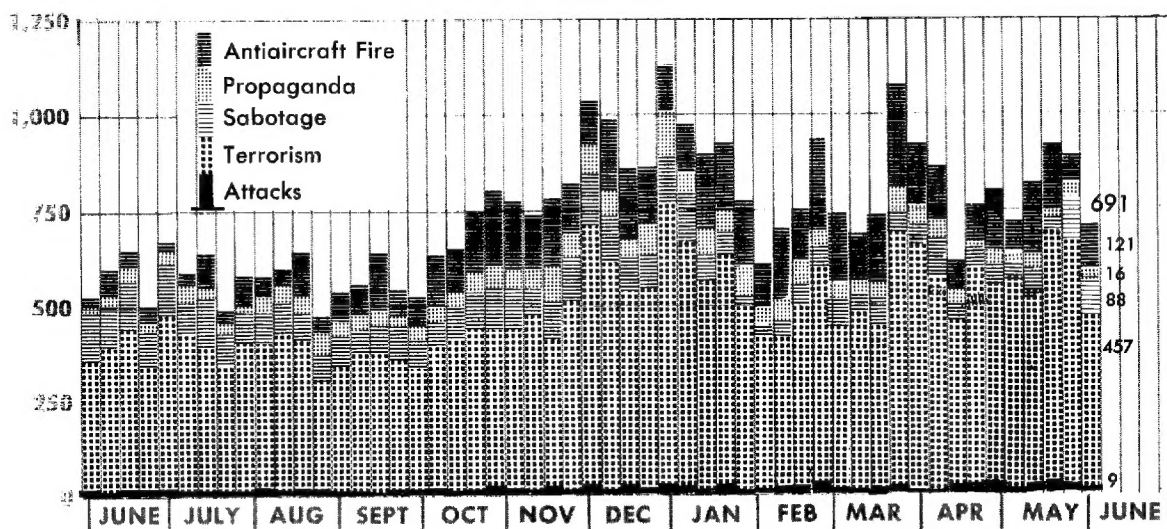
SOUTH VIETNAM BATTLE STATISTICS

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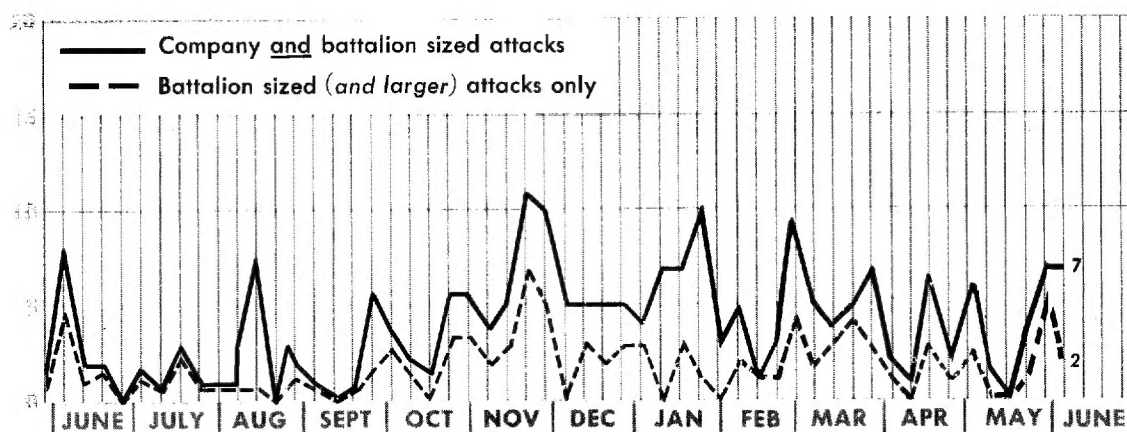
WEEKLY REPORT 28 MAY - 4 JUNE 1966

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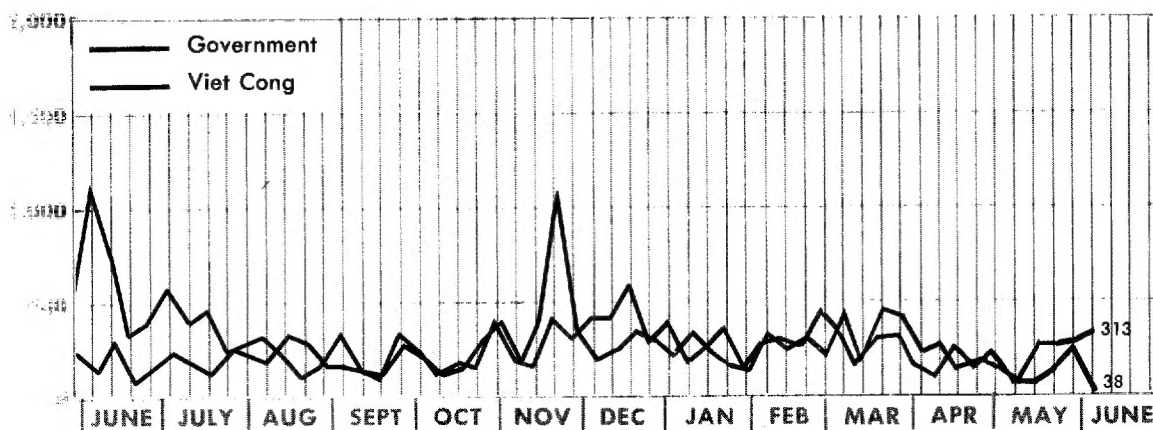
Viet Cong Incidents



Viet Cong Attacks



Weapons Losses



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SOUTH VIETNAM BATTLE STATISTICS

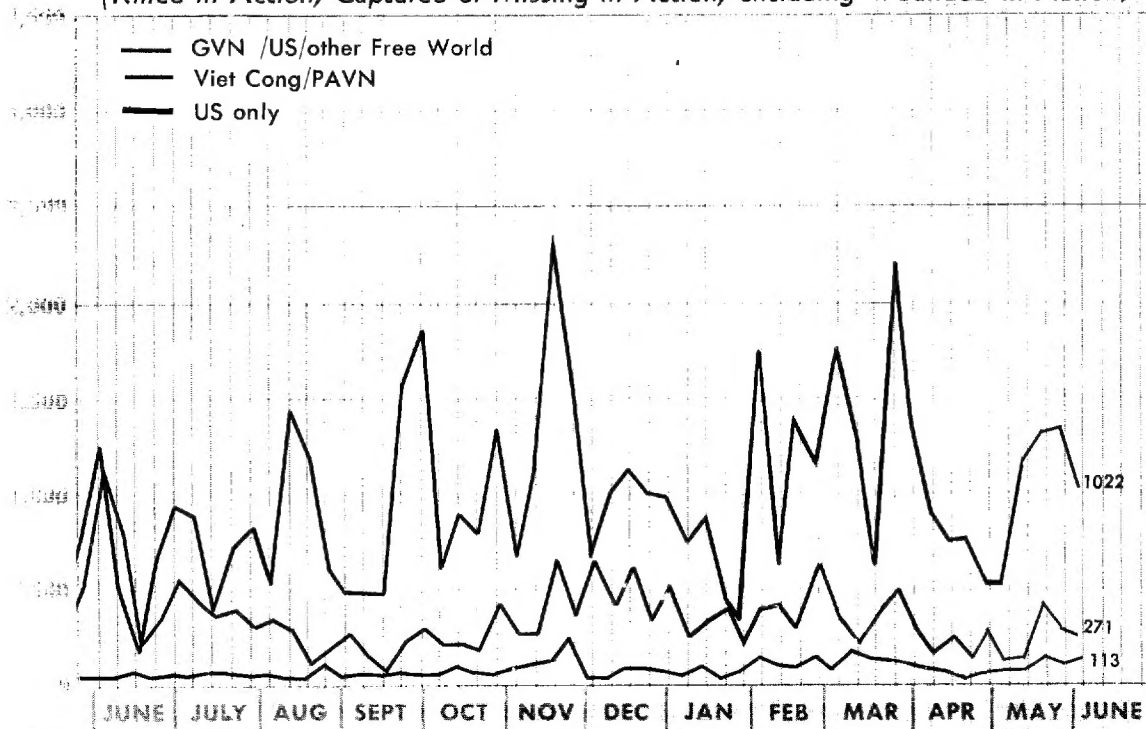
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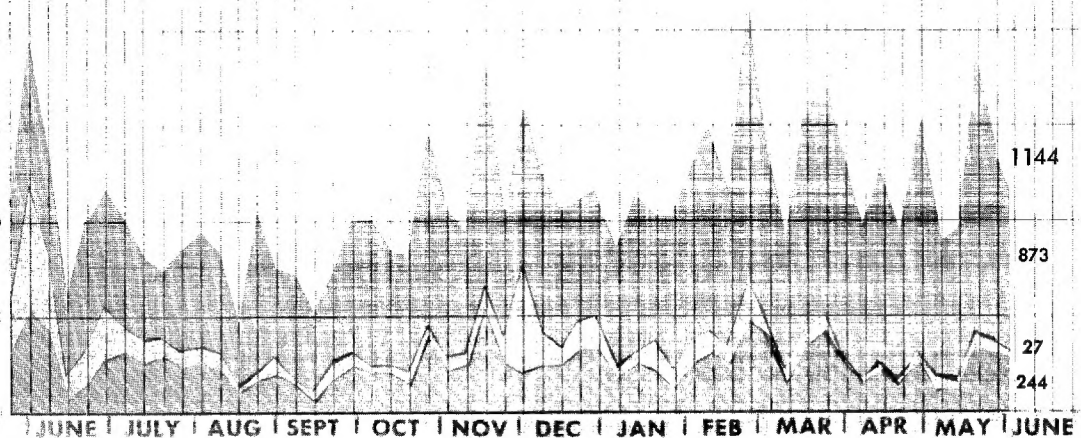
Total Personnel Losses

(Killed in Action, Captured or Missing in Action, excluding Wounded in Action)



US Combat Casualties in Vietnam (including North Vietnam)

	Fatalities	Non-fatal Wounds	Captured	Missing
Cumulative, 1961-1964	255	1524	10	12
Cumulative, 1965	1365	6110	15	136
Cumulative, 1966 to date	2042	12607	11	69
TOTAL	3662	20241	36	217



Total Friendly Forces Personnel Losses

(US/GVN/Other Free World)

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Legend: Killed in action, Missing or Captured in action, Wounded in action

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